



SUPPORTING INDIANA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 6, 2006

Department of Correction Focuses on Rehabilitation

The Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) has been working to provide offenders with self-improvement programs, job skills, and family values in an efficient and cost effective manner for a successful return to the community as law abiding citizens.

The DOC has begun releasing offenders on weekdays and days before holidays to insure their immediate introduction to available community resources and supervision.

The Department identified a new medical and dental vendor for offenders saving the state \$19 million over the 4-year contract.

A strategic plan was developed to help offenders reenter society, and offenders sentenced strictly for failing to pay child support are being assigned to work release programs so they can begin to pay their debt.

For more information: <http://www.in.gov/doc/newsroom/>

Hurricane Victims Thank Hoosiers

Governor Daniels recently received a letter from Hurricane Katrina victims Brandi Devers and her husband Wesley, thanking Hoosiers for their commitment to repairing and rebuilding communities in Mississippi effected by the storm.

"...there is not a day that goes by that we do not see a van, truck, bus, etc. with an Indiana tag," said Devers. "Please let the generous people of Indiana know how much they are appreciated. Thank you Indiana for all that you have done to help us and for all that you continue to do!"

LARGEST STATE POLICE RECRUITMENT CLASS IN INDIANA HISTORY

As part of Governor Mitch Daniels' plan to strengthen the state police, Indiana is expected to have the largest recruitment class in its history.

The 160 person entry-level class is more than twice as large as any previous class and will begin training in January, 2007.

"A major objective of our administration has been the strengthening of the state police and it's restoration to elite status among all American law enforcement agencies," said Daniels.

As part of this strengthening effort, the governor recently increased first-year state trooper salaries to make Indiana more competitive with other states and law enforcement agencies. This, coupled with several initiatives made by the Indiana State Police, has increased applications from 474 in the previous class to 3,375 for the January, 2007 training class.

Governor Daniels hopes to add at least 200 more troopers to Indiana's roads by 2008.



Governor Mitch Daniels speaks with first responders from across Indiana and the surrounding states during a search and rescue effort following the tornados that struck Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties.

Indiana State Police Makes Positive Changes

The Indiana State Police Department continues to work toward improving for the protection of Hoosiers:

- ◆ DNA from every felon in the state prison system is being collected to populate the state's DNA databank
- ◆ Salaries for first-year troopers increased 20 percent
- ◆ 800 laptops are being deployed into the field to ensure that troopers spend more time on the road and less on administrative duties
- ◆ A new \$4 million public safety center is being built along the Indiana Toll Road at no cost to the state
- ◆ Capitol Police officers will be added to the salary matrix in 2007 to improve officer recruitment and retention
- ◆ A backlog of more that 8,600 drug cases at ISP has been eliminated

HOMELAND SECURITY INCREASES FIRE SAFETY

The Indiana Homeland Security Fire and Building Services Department has made great strides in improving and unifying each fire department in Indiana.

Following a statewide summit of over 200 fire and emer-

gency services representatives in 2005, departments now feel better prepared to interact and support each other.

The State Fire Marshal's annual program was revised and lengthened to a two day infor-

mation and education program offering updated services to new fire chiefs and command officers.

Agencies have been consolidated to save taxpayer dollars and increase communication to keep Hoosiers safer.